

Application No. 10/732,957  
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.312 dated December 17, 2004  
Reply to Notice of Allowance of November 29, 2004

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-46 are allowed including an Examiner's Amendment.

Claim 1 has been amended to provide language parallel to that of claim 9 due to an Examiner's Amendment to claim 9. Claim 9 has been amended to provide language parallel to that of claim 23 due to an Examiner's Amendment to claim 23. Claims 16 and 23 have been amended to provide proper antecedent bases. These changes are not necessitated by the prior art, are unrelated to the patentability of the invention over the prior art, and do not introduce any new matter.

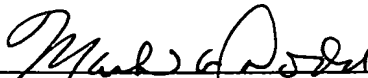
This Amendment is being presented promptly after the discovery of the need therefor. This Amendment does not affect the scope of the claims, does not introduce any new matter, does not present any new issue, does not require any additional search, and will not present an undue burden on the personnel of the Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Amendment be entered in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.312.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a

Application No. 10/732,957  
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.312 dated December 17, 2004  
Reply to Notice of Allowance of November 29, 2004

fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood  
LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Mark A. Dodd  
Registration No. 45,729  
Attorney for Applicant

MAD/lb:jjk  
SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP  
717 N. Harwood, Suite 3400  
Dallas, Texas 75201  
Direct: (214) 981-3481  
Main: (214) 981-3300  
Facsimile: (214) 981-3400  
December 17, 2004